

Appl. No. 09/856,976

Art Unit 1638

July 6, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vector for the *Agrobacterium*-mediated plant transformation, comprising

a T-DNA left border region comprising ~~more than one~~ at least two T-DNA left border ~~sequence~~ sequences.

2. (Currently Amended) A vector for *Agrobacterium*-mediated plant transformation comprising:

a T-DNA right border region to which ~~that is recognized by~~ the *vir* proteins of *Agrobacterium* can specifically bind to and catalyze;

a T-DNA left border region comprising at least two ~~more than one~~ T-DNA left border ~~sequence~~ sequences that is bound and catalyzed ~~recognized~~ by the *vir* proteins of *Agrobacterium*;

a T-DNA region located between these border regions and into which a nucleotide sequence to be introduced into the plant can be inserted; and

Appl. No. 09/856,976

Art Unit 1638

July 6, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2004

a replication origin that enables replication of said vector in bacteria[,];

wherein said vector when used in the Agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation reduces the integration frequency of a non-T-DNA segment into a plant chromosome, as compared with a vector comprising a T-DNA left border region consisting of a single T-DNA left border sequence, ~~when said vector is used in the Agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The vector according to claim 2, wherein the T-DNA region contains a marker comprising a polynucleotide sequence ~~gene~~ that permits the selection of a plant transformed with the vector.

5. (Currently Amended) The vector according to claim 2, wherein the replication origin permits replication of the vector in a bacterial cell for vector amplification ~~bacterial cell~~ and an *Agrobacterium* host cell.

Appl. No. 09/856,976

Art Unit 1638

July 6, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2004

6. **(Currently Amended)** A method for transforming a plant cell comprising the steps of:

introducing the vector according to any one of claims 1, 2, 4 or 5 into an *Agrobacterium* host cell; and

transforming a plant cell with the *Agrobacterium* host cell harboring the vector,

thus obtaining a transformed plant cell.

7. **(Original)** A plant transformed by the method of claim 6.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Previously Presented)** A method for reducing the integration frequency of non-T-DNA segment of a vector for *Agrobacterium*-mediated plant transformation, comprising the steps of:

introducing the vector according to any one of claims 1, 2, 4 or 5 into an *Agrobacterium* host cell; and

transforming a plant cell with the *Agrobacterium* host cell harboring the vector,

Appl. No. 09/856,976

Art Unit 1638

July 6, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2004

thus obtaining a transformed plant cell, wherein the integration frequency of non-T-DNA segment into the chromosome of the plant cell is reduced as compared to the case when a vector comprising a T-DNA left border region consisting of a single T-DNA left border sequence is used.

10-12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Previously Presented)** The vector according to claim 2, wherein the T-DNA left border region comprises at least three T-DNA left border sequences.

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(New)** A method for transforming a plant comprising the steps of:

introducing the vector according to any one of claims 1, 2, 4 or 5 into an *Agrobacterium* host cell; and

transforming a plant by infecting the plant with the *Agrobacterium* host cell harboring the vector;

thus obtaining a transformed plant.